

"Nay" on rollcall No. 354 (Final passage of H.R. 3301).

SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND INVESTING IN LIFELONG SKILLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 803, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. I supported this legislation when it first passed the House last March, and I'm proud to stand here today as we vote to send to the President a bipartisan, bicameral agreement that will reform the nation's broken job training system and help put Americans back to work.

This legislation makes the necessary reforms to make our job training programs more efficient and effective. The bill empowers local boards to customize the services they provide to better reflect their region's employment and workforce needs and aligns workforce training and development programs with the needs of the local economy and education level of applicants.

Equally important, H.R. 803 takes important steps to ensure that Americans with disabilities have both the opportunity to develop the skills they need to succeed and have access to competitive and integrated workplaces. Too often, we overlook the fact that Americans with disabilities experience an unemployment rate that is double that of able-bodied Americans. More troubling is the fact that most of these Americans want to work and have the ability to work but don't have the opportunity. This bill starts to change the status quo. But, we can do more to empower all individuals with disabilities to fulfill their potential just like every American.

Finally, I would like to thank Chairman KLINE for his good work on this and all disability issues.

RECOGNIZING NEW TRAVELING EXHIBITION—NATIVE VOICES: NATIVE PEOPLES' CONCEPTS OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a new interactive exhibition, Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness. This new exhibition, which examines concepts of health and medicine among contemporary American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, will start to travel on August 26, 2014, throughout the United States and is scheduled to open in Oklahoma, a state with a rich Native American heritage that I have the privilege to represent.

Native Voices, developed by the National Library of Medicine, part of the National Institutes of Health, explores the connection between wellness, illness, and cultural life through a combination of interviews with Na-

tive people, artwork, objects, and interactive media.

The National Library of Medicine has a history of working with Native communities as part of the library's commitment to make health information resources accessible to people no matter where they live or work. The Native Voices exhibition concept grew out of meetings with Native leaders across the country.

According to the Library's Director, Donald A.B. Lindberg, MD, the exhibition honors the Native tradition of oral history and establishes a unique collection of information that visitors will find both educational and inspirational.

Topics featured in the exhibition include: Native views of land, food, community, earth/nature, and spirituality as they relate to Native health. It also highlights the relationship between traditional healing and Western medicine in Native communities as well as economic and cultural issues that affect the health of Native communities. Other efforts by Native communities to improve health conditions is included as well. The exhibition also touches on the role of Native Americans in military service and healing support for returning Native veterans.

To make the Native Voices exhibition accessible to people even if they cannot visit it when it comes to a nearby community, there is an online version of the exhibition at www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices and a free iPad App available through iTunes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, and 367. If present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote Nos. 362, 363, 364, 366, and 367, and "no" on rollcall vote No. 365.

HONORING RICK LEONARD

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rick Leonard of Winchester, Virginia, who has served as superintendent of Winchester Public Schools since 2009. Mr. Leonard retired from his post at the end of June after 34 years of service to the school system.

After graduating from James Madison University in 1980, Rick began his teaching career when he accepted a job teaching biology at Handley High School. During his time at Handley, he served as a coach, assistant principal and principal of the school.

Mr. Leonard worked his way to superintendent of Winchester Public Schools, assuming this role on July 1, 2009. He held that post until his retirement last month. It's my understanding that he hopes to enjoy some personal time before returning to teach in higher education or run a small business.

I am pleased to submit the following article from The Winchester Star on Mr. Leonard's retirement and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him for many years of distinguished service to our nation's youth.

[From the Winchester Star, June 27, 2014]

RETIRING CITY SCHOOLS LEADER CREDITS MENTORS

(By Rebecca Layne)

WINCHESTER.—During an Army exercise in 1991, Rick Leonard and George Craig discussed their futures while leaning on the hood of a jeep.

A biology teacher in the Winchester Public Schools, Leonard was in the interview process to become the assistant principal at Handley High School.

But could he hold down the new job and remain in the Virginia Army National Guard? Craig, now a coordinator of curriculum and instruction in the city school system, thought his friend could do it.

Leonard, however, chose to focus his sole attention on one task.

"If he was going to be the assistant principal, they were going to get everything he had," Craig said. "He had a very, very promising career in the Army. But he chose schools. He wanted to give the schools all of his time."

Leonard, 56, stuck to his promise, and more than 20 years after that conversation, he will retire at the end of the month as the division's superintendent, a job he held for five years.

Despite the hefty title, Leonard said, he has never left the classroom.

"I'm retiring as a public school teacher," he said. "I'm still an educator. I'm a teacher for other adults who work directly or indirectly with students, parents and the community."

Leonard started his stint in the classroom when he was a senior at Warren County High School and took on the role of night custodian.

From there, he went on to the College of William and Mary and later transferred to James Madison University, where he was team captain and an academic All-American in football.

He graduated in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in biology and became a part-time military officer in the Army National Guard.

Also that year, he was hired as a biology teacher at Handley and through the years has served as a teacher, a coach, an assistant principal and a principal—all in the Winchester Public Schools. He has held his superintendent post since July 1, 2009.

"You can always rely on Rick to give a straightforward, honest, thoughtful answer to whatever you're working on," Craig said. "I don't know if I've ever seen Rick not smiling and not positive and enthusiastic about what we're doing. When he leaves [your desk], you're a better person. It's been a good conversation and you know things will be OK."

Leonard said his biggest accomplishments are the successes of the students and the "highly qualified and compassionate" teachers and staff members who guided the division through a lack of adequate funding, an increase in testing rigor, a more diverse student population and increasing poverty rates—a "perfect storm of challenges."

"We were still able to weather the worst recession since the Great Depression of the '30s with a rich curriculum, high standards and schools meeting state and federal requirements," he said.

Leonard also had a role in getting the new \$20 million John Kerr Elementary School project off the ground (it is scheduled to open in fall 2016), along with improving recruitment strategies to attract teachers; expanding the Career and Technical Education